

**Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, September 4, 2003
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Runney Memorial School***

Attendees

Duncan Nichols	Bill Rossmassler
Barry Goodman	Dave Shepard
Rick Paradis	Heather Hibbard

Call to Order

7:08 pm

Housekeeping

- Minutes for May, June and August meetings were unanimously approved after discussion and review. The July meeting was cancelled, thus no minutes were recorded.
- A change of venue was discussed for MCC meetings. *It was unanimously decided that to change the meeting location to Town Hall, beginning with the October meeting.
- The appointment of officers was discussed, and voted upon. Officer appointments are as follows: Co-chair will be held by Dave Shepard and Bill Rossmassler, Rick Paradis will remain Treasurer, Heather Hibbard to become Secretary.
- Bill handed out copies of our Bylaws and general information on Conservation Commissions. We discussed term limits and the open meeting law.
- Correspondences: There was an extensive list of correspondences from over the summer. Noteworthy was an offer from the CVSWD to give a presentation on recycling grants. It was agreed that a CVSWD presentation would be put on the December agenda.

Treasures Report

- Total budget remains at \$1944.01. Several bills were presented for approval including a reimbursement to H. Hibbard for fund expended for Design Workshop (\$32.16). Hibbard could no verify that the bill had been paid. **Duncan will follow up with June to confirm if bill has been paid.** Runney School also submitted a bill for materials in the amount of \$225.54, and Middlesex Monthly bill totaled \$200.00 for calendar year 2003.
- A budget will need to be drafted for FY'04. **Rick will begin work on this and send to the Committee for review.**

Discussion

MCC to Provide Assistance to MPC on Zoning Update

There was considerable discussion led by Bill, on what role the MCC should play in the Zoning Update process for the Town. Bill has been attending Planning Commission meetings to provide input and support.

Bill provided 4 scenarios for the MCC to consider, 1) Respond collectively to the survey that MPC send out at the beginning of the summer; 2) Review a "position statement" letter that was submitted to the MPC by the MCC in response to the Town Plan in February, 2002, and update as necessary; 3) Review Interim Zoning and provide comment on proposed Zoning as outlined in the Aug Draft by Burnt Rock; 4) Review district boundaries and mapping.

Heather suggested that #'s 3 and 4 may be time-consuming and are subject to change, and that a more efficient use of time might be to use the survey to guide to comment on specific natural resource-related points.

There was agreement to review questions # 12 and #13 in the survey concerning natural resources and tele-communications. This led to a revisit of the letter that was submitted to the Planning Commission in Feb '02. There was agreement that we develop an addendum to this letter with regard to streamside buffers, deer wintering area buffers, wetland buffers, and particularly the ridgeline-hillside overlay.

Heather advocated that we reference the Town of Stowe's RH overlay and Bill suggested that Elmore district would provide a good starting point. **Bill offered to write a position statement, in cooperation with Heather.**

Great Brook

Barry commented that he had a very interesting visit to the field with Mike Kline to complete the assessment of Great Brook. The Brook is experiencing many problems that will need to be dealt with delicately.

Design Workshop

November 6th has been set for the Village Design Workshop. We discussed briefly the agenda for the day, and brainstormed outreach strategies. **Heather will book Town Hall and send notice to the Steering Committee.** We are looking forward to a successful event!!

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Hibbard, Secretary

Date

Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, October 2, 2003
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Middlesex Town Hall

Attendees

Bill Rossmassler	Judy Keyes
Dave Shepard	John Austin
Rick Paradis	

The meeting opened with a discussion of the Beaver Issue, which recently took place in the north of Town. This came about from a phone call from a concerned resident that beaver dams were being taken out by a backhoe and the idea that the beavers were being trapped. The resident wanted to know if this was legal. This board has its own questions about this action.

Dave presented a draft letter to the Select Board containing our concerns and about the procedure and the area in which it took place. It also contains alternative procedures to deal with beaver dams in the future. The commission would be of assistance in the town in the future if it was kept informed. With few minor changes the letter was approved and a copy will be sent to Jan Heyman.

Approved minutes of September 4, 2003

Budget

\$1949.57 in account
\$1057.30 Select Board appropriations

Expenditures

\$200.00 invoice from Middlesex Monthly
\$225.54 Field Equipment to Rumney School

Rick will email draft budget to Bill because November's meeting will be taken up by the Village Charrette.

Bill shared the mailbag.

All reviewed MCC draft letter to the Planning Commission concerning the zoning update effort. One comment was the need for an inventory of the high value wetlands in town and to increase their buffer zones. Discussed Conservation District zoning. Is 20 acres enough to protect these areas? John will email any additions to the letter to the MCC members.

FYI

- Mike Klein will present review of the Great Brook situation to the Select Board at their next meeting.
- Dave Shepard and Mary Neiling invite others to help with the seeding and mulching of the roadside ditches along East Hill this Saturday morning.

Draft by Judy Keyes

Approved, Middlesex Conservation Commission

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date

**Middlesex Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, December 11, 2003
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Middlesex Town Hall**

Attendees

Duncan Nichols	Bill Rossmassler	Judy Keyes
Barry Goodman	Dave Shepard	John Austin
Rick Paradis	Heather Furman	

Guests

Ella Abrams and Peter Scherer of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. Phone 229-9383

Call to Order

7:11 pm

Community Incentives Program (CIP): CVSWMD

Ms. Abrams and Mr. Scherer presented an overview of the CIP, which is currently in the pilot phase in Montpelier. Several pages of information were handed out to all Commissioners. The aim of the program is to help meet mandatory recycling in municipalities. The program provides a link between waste management and the towns' office buildings, public works buildings, and town garages. There is a \$1000 incentive for towns to attain Level I.

The next step would be for MCC to present the concept to the Selectboard and find an interested coordinator in town.

Housekeeping

- Minutes for October were unanimously approved after review and discussion. The November meeting was cancelled in lieu of the Middlesex Village Design Workshop.
- Correspondences: There were several correspondences from over past several months.

Treasures Report

- Discretionary budget currently stands at \$1067.30. This money must be spent by June 30, 2004. The MCC budget stands at \$1949.59: \$1741.99 is MCC budget \$207.60 belongs to Keeping Track. The mid-fiscal report for Middlesex was presented to Rick. It was confirmed by Duncan that Heather had been reimbursed for her expenses from September. Bill submitted expenses for Friends of the Worchester Range Celebration in the amount of \$125.42.

- Rick and Bill drafted a budget for FY'04, which will be presented to the Selectboard on December 16th. There was considerable discussion concerning the budget, and a request for a \$0.01 allocation to be used to build a conservation fund for the MCC. The Commission decided to request \$1000.00 for operations from the Selectboard and to request a consideration of \$0.01 which would give MCC approximately \$9000 for conservation. That would come to approximately \$5.00 per \$100,000 of property value. There was also discussion on developing a policy for the use of the Conservation Fund, and formally designating the \$1741.99 as seed money for that fund. There was no resolution on who would draft the policy or whether the existing budget would become the base for the Conservation Fund. Dave, Bill and Duncan will probably attend the December 16th Selectboard meeting.

Discussion

Design Workshop

The Middlesex Village Design Workshop was a great success. Bill had copies of the final report which he gave to Heather in paper and digital format and to Judy in paper format. This will be reviewed for recommendation and follow-up.

MCC Assistance to MPC on Zoning Update

Bill compiled the work of the consultant into a legible spreadsheet. The Commission agreed to review the spreadsheet and have comments ready for next months meeting.

Great Brook

Everyone received copies of Mike Klein's Great Brook Recommendations to the Selectboard.

Website

The Middlesex Solutions Committee has launched the new town website: www.middlesex-vt.org. Dave requested that we visit the site and provide comments. There was also an article about the website in the Middlesex Monthly.

Friends of Worchester

Bill reported that the Town of Elmore is interested in hosting the next meeting in January and that they have a lot of momentum for getting a Conservation Commission off the ground.

Next Meeting

The next MCC meeting is schedule for Thursday January 8th, due to the New Year's day holiday which falls on our regularly scheduled meeting date.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather M. Furman, Secretary

Date